

8. (Amended) A soft count tracking system for a currency operated host machine comprising:

an identification adapter having a unique serial number that is used to identify the host machine;

a currency note validator having a microcontroller for receiving identification information from the identification adapter;

a storage mechanism having a non-volatile, integral storage memory for receiving and storing information output from the currency note validator; and

a detachable soft count supervisor for interrogating, extracting, and manipulating the information from the non-volatile storage memory of the storage mechanism.

18. (Amended) A method for tracking the operation of a currency validation system comprising the steps of:

storing a unique serial number in an identification adapter;

communicating the unique serial number to a currency validator having a microcontroller;

communicating performance information from the currency validator to a nonvolatile memory within a storage mechanism; and

communicating the performance information from the nonvolatile memory of the storage mechanism to a soft count supervisor for interrogating, extracting, and manipulating the performance information communicated from the nonvolatile memory of the storage mechanism.

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